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ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

# Decisions adopted by the Executive Board

# at its annual session 1998

(Geneva, 8-19 June 1998)

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98/10. UNFPA: Absorptive capacity

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on absorptive capacity and financial resource utilization in programme countries (DP/FPA/1998/4);

2. Also takes note of the importance of South/South cooperation in enhancing absorptive capacity;

3. Further takes note of the need to enhance, where appropriate, the role of civil society organizations and the private sector;

4. Endorses the actions already taken to increase the absorptive capacity and resource utilization in programme countries, including, inter alia, training and the issuance and implementation of the new UNFPA Policies and Procedures Manual;

5. Endorses the recommendations for further developing absorptive capacity and resource utilization in programme countries contained in document DP/FPA/1998/4;

6. Urges the Executive Director to take the steps necessary to implement the recommendations contained in document DP/FPA/1998/4, bearing in mind the comments made by delegations at the 1998 annual session;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on follow-up to the recommendations contained in document DP/FPA/1998/4 at its third regular session 2000.

12 June 1998

98/11. UNFPA work plan for 1999-2002 and programme expenditure authority

The Executive Board

1. Notes programme resource planning proposals of the Executive Director as set out in document DP/FPA/1998/5 and as revised by the Deputy Executive Director at the annual session 1998;

2. Approves the request for 1999 programme expenditure authority at a level equal to expected new programmable resources for 1999, currently estimated at $263 million, and requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on any significant increases or shortfalls in estimated income for the year 1999;

3. Notes the following estimates of new programmable resources from regular resources for programme planning for the period 2000-2002: $283 million for 2000; $303 million for 2001; and $325 million for 2002;

4. Requests the Executive Director to take steps to evolve the work plan into a more focused, analytical and outcome-orientated document;

5. Invites the Executive Director in formulating the work plan for 2000-2003 to increase the proportion of programmable resources.

12 June 1998

## 98/12. UNFPA: Evaluation

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the report of the Executive Director on United Nations Population Fund evaluation activities (DP/FPA/1998/6) and the progress made by the United Nations Population Fund in revising its monitoring and evaluation guidelines, which emphasize effectiveness and outputs;

2. Encourages the United Nations Population Fund to continue its efforts to enhance the analytical content of the periodic report on evaluation activities, particularly in regard to outcomes, achievements and lessons learned;

3. Requests the Executive Director actively to seek opportunities to undertake joint evaluations, where appropriate, with partner organizations and governments;

4. Also requests that efforts be made to increase further the percentage of external evaluations and to continue to report to the Executive Board on progress made towards this objective in the periodic report on evaluation activities;

5. Requests the Executive Director to include in the periodic report on evaluation activities, starting in the year 2000, an annex providing a record and analysis of evaluation compliance for all country programmes completed in the previous biennium in line with the evaluation work plan of the United Nations Population Fund.

12 June 1998

## 98/13. United Nations Volunteers programme

The Executive Board

1. Notes the diversity in the range of work of the United Nations Volunteers and their roles, the growth of the United Nations Volunteers

programme overall and, in particular, the achievement of reaching the largest number of serving volunteers;

2. Also notes the key messages of the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting, captured in the Bonn Declaration;

3. Commends the United Nations Volunteers programme for continuing its efforts to ensure relevance through the launching and implementation of Strategy 2000;

4. Notes the issues identified by the internal management audit and recognizes the work under way by the United Nations Volunteers programme to respond to its findings;

5. Welcomes the decision to proclaim 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers;

6. Approves the proposals for the use of the one-time Special Voluntary Fund surplus, totalling $1.8 million, to implement the recommendations of the internal management audit;

7. Requests the United Nations Volunteers programme to report at the third regular session 1998 on the management of the reserve for security and medical evacuation needs in the context of the annual review of the financial situation;

8. Decides that it is appropriate to finance from the Special Voluntary Fund strategic and cross-cutting thematic evaluations and to supplement the monitoring of United Nations Volunteers and projects executed by the United Nations Volunteers programme.

19 June 1998

## 98/14. Assistance to Myanmar

The Executive Board

1. Notes that continued funding of project activities in the sectors previously outlined in Governing Council decision 93/21, and confirmed by Executive Board decision 96/1, is estimated at $50 million for the period mid-1999 to end-2001;

2. Authorizes the Administrator, on a project-by-project basis, to approve HDI-E project extensions up to $36.9 million from target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC) resources for the current resource planning period, and up to $13.1 million from the TRAC resources for the next resource planning period, as they become available;

3. Authorizes the Administrator to mobilize, in consultation with the other United Nations funds and programmes concerned, non-core resources for a

United Nations system-wide programme of assistance to northern Rakhine State, through appropriate mechanisms and modalities;

4. Requests the Administrator to continue to provide the Executive Board, on an annual basis, with a report on the progress and challenges in the implementation of project activities of the Human Development Initiative.

19 June 1998

98/15. UNDP communication and information policy

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of document DP/1998/23, in which the Administrator outlines the advances made in the implementation of the UNDP communication, advocacy and information strategy;

2. Welcomes the progress that has taken place since 1995 in creating better visibility and awareness for UNDP and the United Nations system among various target audiences;

3. Encourages the Administrator to emphasize results in the UNDP communication policy as well as the linkage between communication and advocacy and resource mobilization;

4. Supports the efforts of the Administrator to promote and increase the visibility of UNDP in order to expand public awareness of the scope and effectiveness of the Programme and its contribution to the goals of sustainable human development, bearing in mind that communication strategies should be tailored to fit the different target audiences;

5. Invites the Administrator to make a presentation to the Executive Board at its first regular session 1999 that will outline, within the UNDP corporate communication and advocacy strategy, the key areas that will respond to current communication needs, bearing in mind decision 97/17 and comments made by delegations at the annual session 1998;

6. Requests the Administrator to present to the Executive Board at its annual session 1999 a plan of action to implement the key areas identified at the first regular session 1999, including its budgetary implications.

19 June 1998

98/16. Activities of the United Nations Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/1998/24 and DP/1998/24/Add. 2*), further

noting that UNOPS continues to operate successfully in accordance with the self-financing principle;

2. Requests the Management Coordination Committee to assist and guide the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services in finding appropriate responses to those areas identified in document DP/1998/24 in which UNOPS progress is slow or where unexpected difficulties are being encountered;

3. Approves the establishment of the post of Chief Information Officer at the D-1 level with effect from 1 July 1998.

12 June 1998

## 98/17. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 1998 (Geneva, 8-19 June 1998)

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the annual session 1998 it:

### ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 1998 (DP/1998/L.3; DP/1998/L.3*(Spanish only) and DP/1998/L.3/Corr.1) as orally amended;

Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 1998 and 1999 subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

| | |
|---|---|
| Third regular session 1998: | 14-18 September 1998 |
| First regular session 1999: | 25-29 January 1999 |
| Second regular session 1999: | 5-9 April 1999 |
| Annual session 1999: | 14-25 June 1999 (New York) |
| Third regular session 1999: | 13-17 September 1999 |

Agreed to the subjects to be discussed at the third regular session 1998 of the Board, as listed in the annexed work plan;

### UNFPA SEGMENT

### ITEM 2: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR 1997

Took note of the report of the Executive Director for 1997 on programme priorities, programme effectiveness, statistical overview and regional overview (DP/FPA/1998/3 (Part I), (Part I/Add.1), (Part II) and (Part III));

Requested the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1998 a conference room paper on sector-wide approaches;

ITEM 3: ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCE UTILIZATION

Adopted decision 98/10 of 12 June 1998 on absorptive capacity;

ITEM 4: WORK PLAN AND REQUEST FOR PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

Adopted decision 98/11 of 12 June 1998 on the UNFPA work plan for 1999-2002 and programme expenditure authority;

Took note of the report on the status of financial implementation of country programmes and projects approved by the Governing Council and the Executive Board (DP/FPA/1998/8);

ITEM 5: PERIODIC REPORT ON EVALUATION

Adopted decision 98/12 of 12 June 1998 on UNFPA evaluation;

ITEM 6: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Took note of the oral report on the UNFPA information and communication strategy;

ITEM 7: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

Took note of the conference room paper containing an update of the UNFPA financial situation (DP/FPA/1998/CRP.3), and the comments made thereon;

UNDP SEGMENT

ITEM 8: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Took note of the report of the Administrator for 1997, including the introduction to the report, main programme record, global and interregional programmes, other funds and programmes, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for Africa, reports of the Joint Inspection Unit and statistical annex (DP/1998/17/Add. 1-7 and DP/1998/17/Add.1(Part III)/Corr.1), with comments made thereon;

Took note of the report on follow-up to decision 97/16 on change management, including the interim report on the subregional resource facilities (DP/1998/CRP.8);

Took note of the UNDP strategic plan 1998 (DP/1998/CRP.9);

ITEM 9: FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS REFORM

Took note of the oral report on the UNDP role in the follow-up to United Nations reform;

Took note of the report on Emergency Relief Coordinator: Transfer of responsibilities to the United Nations Development Programme (DP/1998/18);

ITEM 10: EVALUATION

Took note of the report on UNDP evaluation activities (DP/1998/19);

ITEM 11: UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

Adopted decision 98/13 of 19 June 1998 on the United Nations Volunteers programme;

ITEM 12: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Took note of the oral report of the President on the work of the Open-ended, Ad Hoc Working Group on the UNDP Funding Strategy;

ITEM 13: COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS

Adopted decision 98/14 of 19 June 1998 on assistance to Myanmar;

Took note of the report on the implementation of the human rights component of the first country cooperation framework for Belarus (DP/1998/22);

ITEM 14: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION POLICY

Adopted decision 98/15 of 19 June 1998 on the UNDP communication and information policy;

ITEM 15: UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Adopted decision 98/16 on the activities of the United Nations Office for Project Services;

Took note of the report on follow-up to recommendations of the Board of Auditors (DP/1998/25);

ITEM 16: INTERNAL OVERSIGHT

Took note of the reports on internal audit and oversight activities of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for Project

Services and the United Nations Population Fund, contained in documents DP/1998/26, DP/1998/24/Add.1 and DP/FPA/1998/7, and requested the United Nations Population Fund to take appropriate measures to enforce the recommendations contained in its report and to report annually on progress made;

ITEM 17: OTHER MATTERS

Took note of the oral report on the activities of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in 1997;

Took note of the oral report on World Trade Organization initiatives for least developed countries;

Took note of the report on the round-table mechanism (DP/1998/CRP.2);

Took note of the oral report on the UNDP programme in Montserrat.

19 June 1998

## Annex

Third regular session 1998 (14-18 September 1998)
(5 working days*)

| Item No. | Nature of report | Action/ Information | Time allotted | Item and subject |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS |
| | Official (DP/1998/L.4) | A | | Provisional agenda, annotations, list of documents |
| | Official | A | | Report on the second regular session 1998 |
| | Official | A | | Report on the annual session 1998 |
| | Official | I | | Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at the annual session 1998 |
| | CRP | I | | Outline for Executive Board work plan 1999 |
| | | | | UNDP SEGMENT |
| 2 | Oral | I | 1 day | UNDP 2001 : Progress report |
| 3 | | | | FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS |
| | Official | I/A | | Annual review of the financial situation 1997 (including a report on the implementation of the budget for the biennium 1998-1999) |
| | Official | I | | Risk management |
| | Official | I | | Activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (including procurement from developing countries) |
| | Official | I | | Subcontracts awarded and major equipment ordered |
| | Official | I | | Review and revision of UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules |
| | Official | I | | United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures 1997 |

| Item No. | Nature of report | Action/ Information | Time allotted | Item and subject |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | | | COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS |
| | Official | A | 1 day | Review of the successor programming arrangements |
| | Oral | I | | Report on implementation of the first country cooperation framework for Nigeria (97/25) |
| 5 | | | | UNOPS: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS |
| | Official | A | ½ day | Revised budget estimates for the biennium 1998-1999 (including risk management, reserves and surplus income) |
| 6 | Oral | I | | UNIFEM (97/18) |
| 7 | | | | RESOURCE MOBILIZATION |
| | CRP | A | ½ day | Report of the Open-ended, Ad Hoc Working Group on UNDP Funding Strategy |
| | | | | UNFPA SEGMENT |
| 8 | Oral | A | ½ day | RESOURCE MOBILIZATION |
| 9 | | | | FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS |

| Item No. | Nature of report | Action/ Information | Time allotted | Item and subject |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Official | I | | Annual financial review, 1997 |
| | Official | A | | Revision of financial regulations |
| | Official | I | | Multi-bilateral and trust fund arrangements (97/26) |
| 10 | | | | SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION |
| | Official | A | | Partners in Population and Development (96/9) |
| | | | 1½ days | |
| 11 | Official | A | | COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS |
| 12 | | | | COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH |
| | Official | I | | Report on first meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Health |
| 13 | CRP | I | | SECTOR-WIDE APPROACHES |
| 14 | | | | OTHER MATTERS, including: |
| | CRP | I | | - Field visits |

Abbreviations: A = action; CRP = conference room paper; I = information; and UNOPS = United Nations Office for Project Services.

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